

HABS NO. VA-645

Double House
Pig Alley Block Study
411-413 Hurt Street
Petersburg
Virginia

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23B-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

PTG ALLEY BLOCK STUDY:

411-413 HURT STREET

HABS
VA
27-PET,
23B-

Location: 411-413 Hurt Street, Petersburg, Virginia

Present Owner: Mrs. Winifred S. Mann Harrison, 522 East Ninth Street,
Greenville, North Carolina

Present Occupant: Margaret Maclin & Family (411)
Annie Lee Williams & Family (413)

Present Use: Two Private Residences

Statement of Significance: This building, probably constructed c. 1835, is part of a village complex of workers' houses, of which this was probably a double dwelling house. The complex was built for workers in the many flour and cotton mills which were located 500 feet north along the Appomattox River. This building is interesting since its form, is a derivation of similar forms which were used in Colonial houses in Tidewater Virginia.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1835
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: A chain of title for the building follows. Deed and Will Books are in the Clerk's Office of Hustings Court at Petersburg.

1844 Deed March 15, 1844 recorded in
Book 14 page 371
Hosea Crowder
Mary A. Crowder
to
John W. Perkinson

1844 Deed September 23, 1844 recorded in
Book 14 page 394
John W. Perkinson
Elizabeth Perkinson
to
David M. Bernard (tr.)
Robert Bolling

1846 Deed February 23, 1846 recorded in
Book 15 page 363

John W. Perkinson
Elizabeth Perkinson

to

Peter P. Batte (tr.)
John E. Semoine
John Bott Semoine
John S. Zimmer
George H. Peirce

1847 Deed May 12, 1847 recorded in
Book 16 page 264

Peter P. Batte (tr.)
David M. Bernard (tr.)
John W. Perkinson
Elizabeth Perkinson

to

Thomas Wallace

1906 Deed July 23, 1906 recorded in
Book 70 page 671

Charles E. Plumm (speical comm.)

to

William P. Kelly

1918 Deed January 9, 1918 recorded in
Will Book 11 page 130

to

Charles H. Kruse
George W. Kruse

1918 Deed July 25, 1918 recorded in
Book 92

Charles H. Kruse
(one-half share of
property)
George W. Kruse

1922 Deed February 14, 1922 recorded in
Book 100 page 372

George W. Kruse
Maud H. Kruse

to

Joseph D. Mann

1927 Deed March 7, 1927 recorded in
Book 143 page 121

Joseph D. Mann
Maggie H. Mann

1943 Deed March 17, 1943 recorded in
Will Book 19 page 11

Maggie Mann
to
Winifred S. Mann Harrison

4. Original plans and construction: Unknown.
5. Alterations and additions: Unknown.

Prepared by Randall J. Biallas
University of Illinois, Urbana
August 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a colonial-type house of the early 19th century. It is located in part of the original city and more than likely was a part of cluster housing for workers in early industry in the area.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in fair condition, particularly considering that it has been used as low rent housing for many years. The sagging front porches are the most obvious signs of disrepair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building is divided into two symmetrical parts, which are separate living units. The overall dimensions of the original rectangular block are 36'4" x 18'3" and the height is one and a half stories plus a basement. It appears that a very early addition might have been constructed at the rear.
2. Foundations: The foundation walls are apparently a combination of stone at the lower courses and brick above. Some areas are inaccessible to note foundation materials.
3. Wall construction and finish: The basement walls are brick. All construction above that is heavy timber with clapboard siding. The siding is all weathered and unpainted.
4. Chimneys: There is one brick chimney, centrally located, with six flues.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are six exterior doors in the building. It appears that all original doors have been replaced.

- b. Windows and shutters: All windows appear to be replacements of originals. There is no trace of shutters.
- 6. Porches: There are two porches in front and two in rear. The two front porches (covered) each measure 6'2" x 4'7"--the long dimension being parallel to the front. They are each supported by two freestanding brick piers. The porch roofs are supported by two freestanding wood columns, each with a small cap 1" thick. The porches are sagging due to poor foundation structure.
- 7. Structural system: Simple frame construction. Structural jointage at roof cannot be seen because of wall finishes in the attic.
- 8. Roof shape and covering: Gabled with lean-to extension at rear. The peak runs parallel to the front of the building. Covering is tin with ribs 18" to 24" o.c. varying. The covering is early but probably not original.
- 9. Dormers: There are four dormers, two in the front, and two in the rear. No significant detailing.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans, general: The floor plans for each unit are mirror images. Therefore the description will be for one side only.
 - a. Basement: Directly below the first floor and accessible both from the first floor and the rear (exterior). There is one room. Fireplace along part wall with opposite unit.
 - b. First floor: Basically one room, with fireplace located in center of party wall. Rear door directly opposite front entrance and opens onto covered rear porch. Part of rear porch (each unit) has been enclosed and converted to modern bath.
 - c. Attic: Small (one room) with dormer windows front and rear. Accessible through narrow stairway from first floor.
- 2. Stairways: Stairs located along exterior (side) wall in each unit. The stairs leading to attic are open at the top and enclosed on both sides. There are very old (possibly original) doors at first floor.
- 3. Flooring: Basement floor is concrete. First and attic floors are wood plank.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Basement walls are painted wall-board over brick on the front and rear walls, while the side walls are plaster over brick. Ceiling is plaster finish. First and attic (walls and ceiling) are painted plaster finish. Paint in poor condition.
5. Doorways and doors: There are only three interior doors per unit. One door between units has been boarded up.
6. Notable hardware: None.
7. Details and trim: None significant.
8. Lighting: Modern.
9. Heating: Oil and wood stoves vented into fireplace flues.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces west on land that slopes gently to the river to the north. It fronts onto a narrow gravel road. Clustered around in an informal arrangement are row houses of the same general character.
2. Landscaping: There is sparse to medium ground cover. There are concrete walks. 25' to 30' trees in area, medium density. No outbuildings, no enclosures.

Prepared by John M. McRae
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
August 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation made during the 1968 Petersburg Summer Project, undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with The Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc., with financial assistance from The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. During the summer, records were made of twenty-two buildings in the city.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was John M. McRae of the University of Florida. The recording team was composed of Randall J. Biallas, historian (University of Illinois, Urbana), and student assistant architects Michael Hamilton (University of Arizona), Thomas J. Sanford (Washington State University), and Edwin S. Smith, Jr. (Rhode Island School of Design). Photographs were made by George Eisenman.